

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (original) In a computing system consisting of a processor, memory storage, input and output devices, a network interface adapter and a basic input/output system (BIOS) for booting, said system being connected to a remote email server, characterized in that said BIOS includes:
 - a means to communicate with the network adapter,
 - a means to access the said remote email server through network during the boot up process using said network adapter,
 - a means to download the email count for the current user from the remote email server on said network, and
 - a means to display the email count for the current user in a defined format on the display of said computing system.
2. (original) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the communication with said remote email server is through TCP/IP protocol.
3. (original) A system as claimed in claim 1 further comprising configuration means for configuring the designated users of the system during a previous system operation.
4. (original) In a computing system including a network adapter and a basic input/output system (BIOS) connected to a remote email server through a network, a method for accessing email count during the boot up process comprising:
 - communicating with the network adapter,
 - accessing the network during the boot up using said network adapter,
 - downloading the email count for the user from the remote email server on said network, and
 - displaying the email count for the current user in a defined format on the display of said computing system.

5. (original) A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the communication with said remote email server is through TCP/IP protocol.
6. (original) A method as claimed in claim 4 further comprising configuring the designated users of the system during a previous operation.
7. (original) A computer program product comprising computer readable program code stored on computer readable storage medium embodied therein for causing a computer to access email count during the boot up process, said computer program code comprising:
 - computer readable program code means configured for communicating with the network adapter,
 - computer readable program code means configured for accessing said remote email server through network during the boot up process using said network adapter,
 - computer readable program code means configured for downloading the email count for the current user from the remote email server on said network, and
 - computer readable program code means configured for displaying the email count for the current user in a defined format on the display of said computing system.
8. (original) A computer program product as claimed in claim 7 wherein said computer readable program code means is configured for communicating with the network adapter through the TCP/IP protocol.
9. (original) A computer program product as claimed in claim 1 further comprising computer readable program code means for configuring the designated users of the system during a previous system operation.